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Docket No.: 2342-0140PUS1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Masanori SAKAI et al.

Application No.: 10/529,896

Confirmation No.: 2272

Filed: December 27, 2005

Art Unit: 2812

For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION BUT BEFORE FINAL
REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE OR CONCURRENTLY WITH A RULE
1.114 RCE APPLICATION)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-SB08(s), attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- ☒ a. Copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are not included.
Copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are included.

☐ b. Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-SB08 are not enclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should already be in the PTO file. If copies are needed, please contact the undersigned.

☐ c. REFERENCES PREVIOUSLY CITED OR SUBMITTED - Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), consideration of information listed on the PTO-SB08 form(s) is requested since any patents, publications, or other information which are listed on the PTO-SB08 form(s) but for which copies are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Appl. No(s) and U.S. Filing Date

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE

(check at least one box)

☐ a. DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - The patents, publications, or other information listed on the attached PTO SB08 are in the English language and therefore, do not require a statement of relevancy.

☒ b. DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows: JP11224858 English Abstract is attached, JP2003229425 English Abstract is attached, JP2002324760 English Abstract is attached, JP7201847 English Abstract is attached, JP7201749 English Abstract is attached. These references were also cited in the International Search Report of the present application which also provides an indication of their relevance. These references were identified in an IDS filed on April 1, 2005, but copies were not submitted at that time because it was believed that the ISA would provide the PTO with copies. The Notice of Acceptance of Application does not indicate that the references from the ISR have been received, and they are therefore being provided herewith for the examiner's convenience.

☐ c. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT - An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(III)(A)(3).

☒ d. OTHER - The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration. JP 11-224858, listed above, was also recently cited by the Korean Intellectual Property Office against a corresponding application. A copy of the Korean Office Action and an English translation thereof are provided herewith for the examiner's information.

IV. FEES (check one box)

☐ a. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of a new patent application; therefore, no fee is required.

☐ b. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrent with the filing of a continuation-in-part, continuation, or divisional patent application; therefore, no fee is required.

☐ c. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or statement is required. *(This section is not to be used with RCE's.)*

☐ d. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or statement is required.

☐ e. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114 (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4)). No fee or statement is required.

☒ f. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or statement is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.97(c) and see the statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no statement has been made, charge our deposit account for the fee as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

☐ g. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2)).

☐ No statement; therefore, a fee as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached.
or

☐ See the statement below. No fee is required.

V. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

(check only one box)

The undersigned hereby states that:

☐ a. **Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 30 days prior to the filing of this IDS; or**

☐ b. Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

☐ c. No item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS.

☐ d. Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information

contained in the IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VI. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)

☐ The required fee is listed on the attached Fee Transmittal.


☒ No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s):

- ☒ PTO-SB08
- ☒ Documents
- ☐ Foreign Search Report
- ☐ Fee
- ☒ Other: Korean Office Action and English translation



PTO/SB/08A/B (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/529,896-Conf. #2272
		Filing Date	December 27, 2005
		First Named Inventor	Masanori SAKAI
		Art Unit	2812
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	2342-0140PUS1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number Number*Kind Code ² (# known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number*Kind Code ² (# known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
	BA**	JP-11-224858-A	08-17-1999			
	BB**	JP-7-201749-A	08-04-1995			
	BC**	JP-7-201847-A	08-04-1995			
	BD**	JP-2002-324760-A	11-08-2002			
	BE**	JP-2003-229425-A	08-15-2003			
	BF**	EP-1 154 037-A1	11-14-2001			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. * CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(ii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IPW. ** CITE NO.: Those document(s) which are marked with a double asterisk (**) next to the Cite No. are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. * Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). * See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. * Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). * For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. * Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	/Satish Chandra/	Date Considered	05/30/2008
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Birch, Stewart, Kolach & Birch, LLP

MKM/STW/tg

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /SC/